

CARIBBEAN TOURISM OFFICIALS TACKLE ISSUE OF AIRLINE SERVICE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD a July 15, 2008 New York Carib News article entitled: "CARICOM Heads Tourism Talk."

The article speaks of the challenges that the tourism-based Caribbean economy is facing due to high oil prices and a "17 percent cut-back on airline services from the United States." Caribbean officials are meeting the challenge of protecting their most profitable industry by gearing up to market the Caribbean as a brand by "looking at the Caribbean as a single space." There have also been talks of combining the regional civil aviation authorities.

Increasingly, Caribbean officials are recognizing the need to unite some of their services in order to increase the viability of their tourism industry in the midst of rising oil prices. One of the discussions and outcomes of the successful New York CARICOM Conference was the possibility of Jet Blue, the popular discount airline, providing service to the Caribbean. With Jet Blue, the Caribbean can regain the much needed air service that is being lost due to high oil prices.

CARICOM HEADS TOURISM TALK

ST JOHN'S, ANTIGUA, CMC—Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders began deliberations focusing on the tourism sector that has been a key contributor to their countries' economies.

There are concerns that recent global developments, such as the rising cost of fuel and changes in flight schedules by US-based airlines, could undermine the viability of an industry that provides thousands of jobs for Caribbean nationals.

The leaders will hear special presentations by St. Lucia's Tourism Minister and Chairman of the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) Allan Chastenet and his Antigua and Barbuda counterpart, Harold Lovell, on efforts to make the sector more competitive in light of the new threats, including a 17 percent cutback in airline services from the United States, the region's main tourism market.

Chastenet told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) that oil prices were expected to reach an estimated US\$170 a barrel and that this could also be accompanied by a 20 percent cut in capacity by the US airlines industry.

"Clearly, as the price of oil continues to increase, that may get more serious," he said.

The CTO Chairman said that the presentation would again emphasize the need for branding the Caribbean, adding a "brand is just not marketing, it is a promise".

"Unfortunately we have not done that," he said, adding that the introduction of the satellite accounting system to measure the economic importance of the tourism industry to Caribbean countries was vital.

"Tourism is never reflected in national accounts and if something is not measurable you can't improve upon it," he said.

"We are going to do a presentation because we have now found funding to help the governments implement satellite accounting systems in each country."

The leaders will also discuss the air transportation sector, with Chastenet indicating

that the issue of establishing hubs to service the region would be on the agenda.

"Also, we would be looking at the Caribbean as a single space," he said, also noting that there is need to combine the various civil aviation authorities in the region.

"One has to consider whether we can achieve more by having one civil aviation authority that would be more cost effective and more prolific in what they are trying to achieve."

Chastenet said the crisis now confronting the tourism industry has also shown that the operations of the regional airlines are not viable. "One of the things that all of our airlines are proving in this region is that they are not economically viable, so we know that the model we have been using doesn't work and I am really hoping that we really have functional cooperation."

There should be at least a meeting a year in which the regional carriers are sitting down and trying to make sure that their schedules are coincided," he said.

"Why should a person have to leave the Bahamas and have to go the (United) States in order to come to the other parts of the Caribbean?"

"Why can't that take place through Jamaica and then down into the Eastern Caribbean. It is ridiculous that Caribbean Airlines and LIAT don't even interlock. So those are the things that we will be bringing to the Heads' attention and basically saying this is now having a negative impact on our tourism arrivals."

Host Prime Minister and CARICOM Chairman Baldwin Spencer said that increases in airfares and new airline charges were also contributing to the "bleak perspectives for the region's tourism-driven economies".

He said that while he was encouraged by the efforts of the regional airline LIAT to fill the void created by the reduction in airlift by US air carriers, it was not, however, a viable proposition. "International airlift is a present and critical problem. So, too, regional sea and air transportation for tourism and trade and personal and business travel," Spencer said.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Republican Earmark Guidance, I am including the following request, which has received funding in H.R. 6599.

Project: Unified Security Forces Operations Building.

Cost: \$7,400,000.

Account: Military Construction—Defense Wide.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Joint Base.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2901 Falcon Lane, McGuire Air Force Base, NJ 08641.

Description of Request: The joint security headquarters is designed to serve all three services and installations. This funding is for the first of two construction phases. The structure will house criminal investigation personnel, training facilities, detention and confinement areas, identification facilities, and an armory and weapons cleaning stations.

CONGRATULATING THE HUGH O'BRIAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM ON THEIR 50TH ANNI- VERSARY

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Program as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary this summer. Since its foundation, HOBY has instilled valuable leadership techniques in over 365,000 high school sophomores creating exceptional leaders for our future.

As a recipient of the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Program my sophomore year in high school, and now a proud alumnus, HOBY afforded me the honor of representing my classmates, my neighbors, and my community. It's not often a teenager gets to be an ambassador—but HOBY has given that chance to hundreds of thousands of students.

HOBY has proved to be an outstanding influence on our younger generations. Each year, with over two million volunteer hours recorded by HOBY students and volunteers, HOBY participants are making a difference. HOBY's success is also evident in the many non-profit organizations that have been created by HOBY alumni, including Food for Thought and Our Education.

HOBY Ambassadors are now recognized in more than 20 countries at the World Leadership Congress. Their program has grown to include students from Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Mexico, Israel, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea. By extending the HOBY experience internationally, it allows HOBY Ambassadors to take one step further and encourage innovative thinking.

May their mission continue to thrive as they "provide lifelong leadership development opportunities that empower youth to achieve their highest potential". Congratulations on 50 years of tremendous success.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA BLOOM AND RICHARD GAARD

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate two Iowans, Linda Bloom and Richard Gaard on being named national high school coaches of the year in their respective sports.

Linda Bloom is the Girls' Swimming and Diving coach at Marshalltown High School in Marshalltown, Iowa. She has coached the Bobcats for 22 years and has accumulated a career record of 172–36. She has been named Regional Swim Coach of the Year thirteen times and was the 1993 Iowa State Swimming Coach of the Year. Coach Bloom is the current president of the Iowa Girls and Women's Sports Committee and a member of the Board of Directors of the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union. She also coaches the Marshalltown Girls' Golf team.

Richard Gaard is the Boys' Golf coach at Decorah High School in Decorah, Iowa. He

has coached the Vikings 36 years and has a career record of 333–123–11. His teams have won nine conference, thirteen district, and nine regional championships. Coach Gaard helped establish and is a charter member of the Iowa Golf Coaches Association. In 2007, he was named the Iowa Golf Coaches' Association Coach of the Year and has been named conference coach of the year 10 times. Coach Gaard is also a football and basketball official as well as the head of Decorah High School's DECA Program.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating Coach Linda Bloom and Coach Richard Gaard on their coaching success and for making a difference in the lives of Iowa's youth. It is an honor to represent Coach Bloom and Coach Gaard in the United States Congress, and I wish them the best as they continue to provide a positive impact as role models and mentors.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: TOM COLE (OK–4).

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Military Construction, Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Tom Cole (OK–4).

Address of Entity: Tinker AFB, 7751 1st St, Tinker AFB, OK 73145.

Description of Request: This \$5,400,000 addition to the Air Force MilCon Account will accelerate from within the FYDP the realignment of Air Depot Street at Tinker Gate. This project is fully executable in the next fiscal year, is within the FYDP, supported by the base commander, is a base priority, and has a parametric cost estimate associated with it. The existing roadway alignment poses a safety issue and does not satisfy the Anti-Force/force protection requirements. It is not in compliance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices—extreme congestion during morning and afternoon peak traffic flows presents significant driver safety issues as exits are made from a major Interstate onto the entrance to Tinker AFB. The project also provides for a new Pass and Identification building consolidating all operations at the 24-hour gate.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PACE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the Pace, Florida Fire Department.

In 1959 the city of Pace had little access to emergency services. A small group of ten local citizens took matters into their own hands and heeded their community's call for

help. With only two donated fire trucks, these ten brave men created the Pace Volunteer Fire Department and began responding to local emergencies. In the beginning, the department had no station to house firemen or fire trucks. Instead, two Pace households used "fire phones" to take emergency calls. These households would then phone each firefighter at home to alert them of the fire. With little extra funding for gear, the men often responded to these fires with nothing but the clothes on their backs and courage in their hearts.

As the fire department gained its footing in the Pace area, the local community began to provide funding for a new alert system, a new fire station, and appropriate firefighting gear. The firefighters' wives founded a ladies auxiliary which helped to raise funds and to support their husbands. With such dedicated support from the local society, the fire department quickly grew to over thirty firefighters. Over the past fifty years, the Pace Volunteer Fire Department has expanded from one station and two donated fire engines to four substations and eleven fire trucks. Today, a group of twenty firefighters and ten associate members now respond to over 1,400 emergency calls each year.

The dedicated men and women of the Pace Fire Department have faithfully served their community for fifty years. Each and every day these volunteers respond bravely to our most dangerous disasters, and they ask for nothing in return. Their commitment to the citizens of Pace and passion in fulfilling their duties distinguishes them as one of the best fire departments in the country.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor the Pace Fire Department for its fifty years of courageous service to their community.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman LAMAR SMITH.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Defense Medical Program, TRICARE Management Activity, Military Construction, Defense-Wide.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Sam Houston.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1206 Stanley Road, Suite A, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234–5001.

Description of Request: The funding would be used to construct a medical instruction facility. This project provides general and applied instructional space, administrative space and automation-aided classroom space.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the Republican adopted standards

on earmarks, I submit the below detailed explanation of the C-130 Squadron Operations Facility for the 182nd Airlift Wing, Illinois Air National Guard.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599—The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Provisions/Account: MilCon, Air National Guard, JLQN069160.

Name and Address of Requesting Entity: 182nd Airlift Wing, Illinois Air National Guard, 2416 S. Falcon Boulevard, Greater Peoria Regional Airport, Peoria, IL 61607.

Description of Request: This is a top priority for the Illinois Air National Guard. This project has already received architecture and engineering funding from the National Guard Bureau, and will be ready to utilize FY09 funds. This request would provide a properly sized and adequately configured facility to accommodate airlift squadron operations. The current facility is only 86 percent of the authorized space. It is extremely overcrowded and inadequate to support the ongoing airlift mission of this C-130 base. Upon completion of this project, the current Operations building will be reconfigured to address the critical space shortages of other base operations.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mrs. CUBIN. Madam Speaker, in conformance with Republican Earmark Standards Guidance, I hereby submit the attached detailed finance plan for the C–130 Squadron Operations Facility at the Cheyenne Municipal Airport in Cheyenne, WY. This project is funded at \$7,000,000 in H.R. 6599, the Fiscal Year 2009 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, as reported by the House Appropriations Committee on July 24, 2008. I am pleased to support this project on behalf of the Wyoming National Guard as they seek to fulfill vital national defense and homeland security requirements in association with the active duty Air Force.

Requesting Member: Rep. BARBARA CUBIN (WY–At Large).

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Military Construction; Air National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Wyoming National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: 5500 Bishop Boulevard, Cheyenne, WY 82009.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark for \$7,000,000 to construct a squadron operations facility at the Cheyenne Municipal Airport in Cheyenne, WY. Specifically, \$5,795,000 for basic construction of the approximately 26,200 square foot facility; \$200,000 for utilities; \$165,000 for roadway and parking pavements; \$55,000 for site improvements; \$75,000 for communications support; \$315,000 in contingency funds for unforeseen expenses; and \$396,000 for supervision, inspection and overhead. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Air National Guard's Military Construction account. The Wyoming National